

Agnew's Junta Ties Disturb NATO

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

BOSTON—How much will Spiro Agnew dominate American policy toward Greece once he becomes Vice President is the question being asked by our NATO allies almost more than in the United States. The London Sunday Times recently published a feature story on this subject.

Gov. Agnew has become an enthusiastic supporter of the Greek military junta which has been under severe criticism by many Greek-Americans and by some of our NATO allies for having imprisoned the 6848 leaders of the political opposition including former Premier George Papandreu, together with his son, Andreas, a former professor at the University of Minnesota and the University of California.

Gov. Agnew's support of the Greek military is reported to be inspired in part by his association with Tom Pappas, one of the fund-raisers for Nixon-Agnew and probably the biggest businessman in Greece.

Pappas operates a steel mill in Salonika; one of the biggest oil refineries in the Mediterranean, also in Salonika; a petro-chemical plant; and recently secured the Coca-Cola concession for Greece. Pappas is also a vigorous supporter of the military regime and has been used by the Central Intelligence Agency to siphon

secret funds to Greece, reportedly to influence Greek politics, through his various foundations. Pappas has three foundations: the Thomas and Carrie Pappas Charitable Foundation, the Pappas Charitable Trust and the Pappas Family Foundation.

Tom Pappas, unlike his brother John, is a Republican and has been chairman of various Republican financial committees for New England dating back for a dozen years. John Pappas, a Democrat, is president of the Suffolk Downs race track outside of Boston.

Tom Pappas, together with Spyros Skouras, chairman of 20th Century-Fox motion picture company, has been active in supporting Gov. Agnew since 1966 when Agnew first jumped from an obscure county official to Governor of Maryland. Skouras staged a luncheon for Agnew at that time to which prominent Greeks and Greek-Americans were invited, including some of the lords of the shipping world—Aristotle Onassis, new husband of Jacqueline Kennedy, Stavros G. Livanos, once father-in-law of Onassis, and Stavros Niarchos, Onassis's brother-in-law; Manuel Kulkundis.

Pappas Chose Agnew

Later, when Nixon was looking around for a vice presidential running mate, Pappas played a part in Agnew's selection.

At a meeting in the law office of Lord, Day and Lord, of which former Attorney Herbert Brownell is a partner, it was decided that Mayor John Lindsay of New York should be Nixon's running mate. But when Sen. Strom Thurmond turned thumbs down, Tom Pappas was one of those who encouraged the selection of his friend Gov. Agnew of Maryland. It was suggested at the time that Pappas could raise substantial funds from Greek-Americans to support Agnew.

This financial support, however, has been disappointing. Greek shipowners who were expected to contribute have been reluctant. Many Americans of Greek descent have also held back, though they have been anxious to support the three Greek-American Congressmen, John Brademas of Indiana, Peter Kyros of Maine and Nick Galifianakis of North Carolina, all highly respected members of Congress.

Pappas has worked hard at the money-raising job and even took a trip all the way to New Orleans to contact William Helis, a leader of the Greek-American community. He came back empty-handed.

Pappas has now returned to Athens to handle pressing business affairs, somewhat discouraged over the failure of Greek-Americans to support the Governor of Maryland.

Among those who have con-

tributed, however, is Joseph M. Linsey, the former Boston bootlegger who is also part owner of the Suffolk Downs race track and the Taunton dog track, and whose underworld ties combined with generous charitable contributions have made him one of the most controversial figures in Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, it will be interesting to see what influence Gov. Agnew has on American Greek policy when and if he becomes Vice President. The London Sunday Times recently commented, referring to Pappas, that "One of Agnew's most influential backers... is a Greek-American millionaire with interesting links with the Central Intelligence Agency who is an open champion of the Greek junta." In view of this, the Times noted, "The rulers of Greece have decided they no longer need to spend their \$250,000 budget which they had allocated for public relations work in the United States."

Greece, the birthplace of democracy, is a key member of NATO and the first European nation to receive American aid under the Truman Doctrine. Americans of Greek descent are about evenly, though bitterly, divided as to whether the present government by the colonels is good or bad for Greece.